

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
a substrate having heat resistance;
a coating layer which is composed of a carrier containing alumina as a main component, and zeolite, and formed on a surface of said substrate; ~~and~~
a noble metal which is carried by said coating layer, the weight ratio of alumina and zeolite in said coating layer ranging from 5 : 1 to 1 : 1; and
an HC-adsorbent layer interposed between said substrate and said coating layer, wherein the HC-adsorbent layer includes no noble metal.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
a substrate having heat resistance;
an HC-adsorbent layer ~~which is comprising zeolite~~ formed on a surface of said substrate, wherein said zeolite consists of β -type zeolite;
a lower catalyst layer which is composed of a porous carrier carrying only Pd and excluding all other noble metals, and is formed on a surface of said HC-adsorbent layer;
and
an upper catalyst layer which is composed of a porous carrier carrying Pt and Rh, and is formed on a surface of said lower catalyst layer.
4. (Original) A catalyst as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of said lower catalyst layer and said upper catalyst layer contains at least oxide containing Ce.
5. (Original) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said noble metal is at least one selected from the group consisting of Pt, Rh and Pd.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HC-adsorbent is zeolite is β -type zeolite.
8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst as claimed in ~~claim 2~~claim 7, wherein said HC-adsorbent is zeolite is β -type zeolite.
- 9-10. (Canceled)
11. (New) A catalyst as claimed in claim 3, wherein Pt and Rh are carried on the same porous carrier.
12. (New) A catalyst as claimed in claim 3, wherein the HC-adsorbent layer consists of β -type zeolite.